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SUPERMAN STARRING IN ACTION COMICS

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT!

ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU!

I'M GUILTY!

THE NEW DC THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET *KRYPTON*, *KAL-EL* GREW TO MANHOOD ON *EARTH*--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC *SUPER-POWERS!* IN THE CITY OF *METROPOLIS*, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN *CLARK KENT*--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER *EARTH*--AND *BEYOND*--AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster

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abraxas

"WATCH CAREFULLY AND YOU WILL SEE THE *DISINTEGRATION* OF A HERO.

"NOT A VERY *DIFFICULT* FEAT TO MANAGE. IF ONE HAS TIME ENOUGH, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

"THOSE *ROBOTS* WERE CONSTRUCTED IN SUPERMAN'S IMAGE FOR THE *BENEFIT* OF THE PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS.

"YET I WAS ABLE TO MANEUVER SUPERMAN INTO *DESTROYING* THEM!

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"THAT WAS PHASE ONE." SUPERMAN, THE HERO, WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE SOME JEALOUS FOOL."

*As shown in ACTION #542--Julie

FOR PITY'S SAKE, SUPERMAN--

--WHY DID YOU DESTROY MY ROBOTS?

I CREATED THEM TO HELP YOUR CITY.

BUT LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE! ALL MY WORK... DESTROYED!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, SUPERMAN? I CAME TO THIS EARTH TO CHANGE MY WAYS.

WHATEVER EVIL I DID IS LEFT BEHIND ON EARTH-2.

THIS WAS GOING TO BE MY WAY OF PROVING HOW MUCH I TRULY WISHED TO REFORM.

BUT, YOU RUINED IT, SUPERMAN... YOU RUINED MY HOPES OF HELPING METROPOLIS.

SUPERMAN...

WHAT IS IT, INSPECTOR HENDERSON?

YOU ACCUSED VANDAL SAVAGE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, YET WE CAN FIND NO CRIMINAL RECORD...

...NOT WITH THE F.B.I., INTERPOL, OR ANY OTHER POLICE ORGANIZATION.

YOU ATTACKED HIM AND DESTROYED HIS PROPERTY FOR NO APPARENT REASON. IF HE WISHED HE COULD SUE YOU.

NO...NO... I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE. I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP.

"IMMORTALITY DOESN'T DEMAND INSTANT SUCCESS. WEEKS LATER, I QUIETLY BEGAN PHASE TWO." *

...LANA LANG FOR *WGBS TV* NEWS, LIVE IN MIDTOWN METROPOLIS, WHERE A MOST *BAFFLING* BATTLE IS TAKING PLACE.

*ACTION #543 - Julie

"THE FIGHTERS ARE SUPERMAN AND THE RECENTLY PAROLED FORMER CRIMINAL KNOWN AS NEUTRON."

STAY *BACK*, SUPERMAN, OR I SWEAR YOU WILL *REGRET* THIS!

I'VE HEARD THOSE *THREATS* BEFORE, PAL --

--AND I NEVER PUT MUCH *STOCK* IN-- *GREAT KRYPTON!*

WASN'T *BALANCED* ... HIS *NUCLEAR PUNCH* SENT ME FOR A *LOOP!*

THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS-- *WHY* HAS SUPERMAN ATTACKED NEUTRON?

DON'T KNOW WHAT LANA *MEANT* BY THAT... BUT I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT LATER--

WELL, I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE A SECOND TIME.

GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE I *REALLY* GET MAD.

...AFTER I PUT NEUTRON UNDER *WRAPS*... LITERALLY!

SUPERMAN, YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO *LEAVE* MY CLIENT ALONE!

WHAT? WHO ARE YOU?

LOUIS HAVIUS, MR. TRYON'S ATTORNEY.

YOU ATTACKED HIM WITHOUT CAUSE.

HE *DEMOLISHED* THAT BUILDING WITH HIS *NUCLEAR POWERS*.

TRYON'S COMPANY WAS *HIRED* TO DO EXACTLY THAT.

HIS COMPANY?

NEUTRON NUCLEARONICS

A DIVISION OF ABRAXAS INDUSTRIES

A COMPANY WHICH IS GOING TO TAKE YOU TO *COURT* OVER THIS.

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO SUPERMAN DESTROYED *ROBOTS* BELONGING TO ABRAXAS INDUSTRIES...

THIS REPORTER IS *FORCED* TO ASK--

TODAY HE ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE WITH THE LAWFUL WORKING OF ONE OF THEIR DIVISIONS.

-- WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR HERO?

IF SUPES SAYS THOSE GUYS WERE CREEPS, THAT'S *GOOD* ENOUGH FOR ME.

HOW CAN YOU *TRUST* SOMEONE WITH ALL THOSE *POWERS*?

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH SUPERMAN?

WHAT THEY PUTTIN' DOWN SUPERMAN FOR? HE'S A *HERO*!

SO WHAT IF HE MADE A FEW MISTAKES? HE'S ONLY *HUMAN*!

OPEN

YOU *SURE* 'BOUT THAT?

WHAT IF HE TURNS HIS POWERS AGAINST *US*?

DON'T BELIEVE IT! I SEEN HIM SAVE AN ENTIRE *BLOCK* FROM BURNIN' DOWN!

THAT MAN'S *NUMBER ONE* IN MY BOOK!

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"YOU SEE HOW IT BEGAN? PEOPLE'S MINDS CAN BE CHANGED... WHEN YOU CONTROL THE FACTS."

PREHISTORIC PLANT LIFE IS SPROUTING ALL OVER METROPOLIS. BUT *WHY?* HOW?

THEY'RE FOLLOWING SUPERMAN -- AS IF *HE* CAUSED THEM!

N... NO! IT *CAN'T* BE TRUE!

I DON'T LIKE TO BELIEVE IT, EITHER... BUT MAYBE SUPERMAN ISN'T THE HERO WE ALL *THOUGHT* HE WAS.

SUPERMAN? I *CONTAINED* THAT PREHISTORIC THREAT UNDER A *FORCE-SHIELD* OF MY OWN DESIGN.

WHY DID YOU *DESTROY* IT? WHY DID YOU *UNLEASH* THE PLAGUE ON ALL METROPOLIS? *WHY?!?*

SLOWLY, EVER SO SLOWLY, THE TIDE OF PUBLIC OPINION WILL *CHANGE*, AND WHEN IT DOES -- SUPERMAN WILL BE *DISGRACED* FOREVER...

...AND THEN... AND *THEN*...

THE DAILY PLANET...

I HATE PRINTING THIS, BUT THE EAGLE'S BEEN PLASTERING ACCUSATORY HEADLINES LIKE THIS FOR WEEKS NOW.

IF WE DON'T, WE CAN BE ACCUSED OF FAVORITISM. WE'D LOSE OUR CREDIBILITY.

SUPERMAN? WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR HERO?

SUPERMAN'S INNOCENT! HE'D NEVER DO ANYTHING WRONG!

AFTER ALL THE TIMES HE'S HELPED US, WE CAN'T TURN OUR BACKS ON HIM!

"POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT; ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY." SIR JOHN ACTON SAID THAT.

AND IF SUPERMAN HASN'T GOT ABSOLUTE POWER...

LISTEN, MOORE. I'M SICK OF YOUR PUTTING DOWN SUPERMAN. HE'S THE GREATEST HERO THIS WORLD'S EVER KNOWN.

YOU ALWAYS WIN ARGUMENTS THROUGH PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION, OLSEN!

KNOCK IT OFF. WE'RE NOT ACCUSING SUPERMAN. WE'RE ASKING FOR ANSWERS THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW.

MAYBE THERE'S A PLOT TO DISCREDIT SUPERMAN! MAYBE THIS VANDAL SAVAGE PERSON...

SUPERMAN HAS ALWAYS ATTACKED SAVAGE. NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

YOU'RE ACCUSING SUPERMAN BECAUSE YOU'RE MAD AT HIM.

NO. I'M NO LONGER IN LOVE WITH HIM OR SWEPT AWAY BY HIS CHARISMA...

...BUT I STILL BELIEVE IN SUPERMAN. WHATEVER HIS FAULTS MAY BE, HE'D NEVER INTENTIONALLY BE EVIL.

WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS STORY.

AND IF IT MEANS PRINTING A HEADLINE SUPERMAN DOESN'T LIKE—SO BE IT. MEETING OVER.

AT LEAST THEY STILL *BELIEVE* IN ME, BUT THAT WON'T...

HI, LUV, HOW'S IT GOING?

DON'T TELL ME. YOUR *EXPRESSION* SPEAKS VOLUMES. SUPERMAN?

YOU KNOW IT, LANA. I THINK THE CITY IS READY TO *CRUCIFY* HIM.

DON'T BELIEVE IT. *MOST* OF METROPOLIS IS STILL IN HIS CORNER.

FOR *HOW* LONG?

WE KNOW SUPERMAN BETTER THAN *MOST*... GOING BACK TO SMALLVILLE. YOU WERE HIS *BEST FRIEND*. I WAS HIS *GIRL*.

DAILY PLANET

FUNNY. FOR AWHILE I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE THE *SAME* PERSON. HOW SILLY.

YOU'RE A *WARM*, LOVING MAN. SUPERMAN GUARDS HIMSELF AGAINST LOVE.

FRANKS

YOU TWO MAY *LOOK* THE SAME, BUT YOU'VE GOT COMPLETELY DIFFERENT *SOULS*.

ALSEN + VICKY

I REALLY *CARE* FOR LANA. I THINK I *COULD* SPEND MY *LIFE* WITH HER.

MAYBE I SHOULD *TELL* HER--

JUST THEN...

SUPERMAN! WHERE ARE YOU, COWARD OF STEEL?

THE LASER ERASERS ARE GUNNING FOR YOU!

ZRRNEEEE

BAMM

SPAMMM

ZIPPPPPP

SKABOOOM

SPAMMM

UNIT SECTIONS *DISENGAGE!*

BLAST EVERYTHING UNTIL THAT SUPER-FOOL SHOWS!

CLARK, CALL FOR A *PHOTOGRAPHER!* I'LL SET UP A SAFE OBSERVATION POINT.

BE *CAREFUL*, LANA.

I *ALWAYS* AM, LUV.

SHE IS, TOO... UNLIKE LOIS.

THEY ARE *SO* COMPLETELY *UNLIKE* EACH OTHER.

I GUESS IT'S TRUE -- YOU *NEVER* KNOW ABOUT LOVE.

JUST WISH THE SAME COULD BE SAID ABOUT *CRIME*.

WHY IN THE WORLD ARE THE *LASER ERASERS* COMING AFTER ME?

AN X-RAY SCAN REVEALS NO WEAPONS DANGEROUS TO ME. WHICH MEANS THIS ATTACK IS SHEER *FOLLY*.

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STILL, IT WILL CAUSE *UNTOLD* DAMAGE TO THE CITY...

...UNLESS I MOVE SUPER-FAST!

RUN! IT'S NOT SAFE!

SKRABAM!

OH, MY GOD-- IT'S A *WAR!*

LASERS, KEEP UP ATTACK... DECIMATE *EVERYTHING!*

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

HEARD THAT. THEY *KNOW* I'M GOING TO STOP THEM...

THEN WHY DO ANYTHING IN THE FIRST PLACE?

CAN *VANDAL SAVAGE* HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS?

BUT WHAT WOULD HE *GAIN?* I'M GOING TO *STOP* A MENACE, NOT BEGIN ONE.

IT'S SUPERMAN... HE'S GOING TO CAPTURE THEM!

SUPERMAN'S THE *CAUSE* OF THIS! IF HE WEREN'T IN METROPOLIS, THOSE VILLAINS WOULDN'T *COME* HERE!

THAT'S IT, FELLAS--END OF THE *LINE!*

OUR LASERS WON'T BLAST THROUGH HIS *CAPE!*

BUT YOU CAN *FLY* AWAY IF YOU STILL WISH TO

OF COURSE, YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT FOR MY *BOOMERANGS!*

SUPERMAN *SAVED* US!

CROOKS *ALWAYS COME* TO METROPOLIS TO FIGHT SUPERMAN.

BECAUSE OF HIM WE'RE *ALWAYS* IN DANGER

NO...DON'T SAY THAT! THINK OF HOW MANY TIMES HE'S *SAVED* US!

REMEMBER HOW MANY PEOPLE HE'S *HELPED!*

SIR, YOU

OF COURSE NOT

THESE SMALL BOTTLES ARE MEANT TO

SUPERMAN DESTROYED MY WHICH WOULD HAVE TURNED METROPOLIS INTO A PREHISTORIC JUNGLE...

ULTIMATE GOAL. SUPERMAN CAPTURED THE ERASERS...

...BUT PEOPLE NOW ASSOCIATE SUPERMAN WITH DANGER

I SEE, SUPERMAN A CREATURE OF HABIT THE MAN TENDS TO THINK FIRST WITH HIS FISTS AND THEN HIS BRAINS.

...I'VE PLANTED THE SEEDS OF DISTRUST.

IN HIS NAIVETÉ, ABANDON

AND WHEN HE DOES, VANDAL SAVAGE SHALL RULE SUPREME!

NOW -- THE SONIC DISRUPTOR.

IT IS TIME FOR PHASE FIVE.

THE FOOL WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM.

THERE HE IS, PERFORMING YET ANOTHER THANKLESS TASK. WHAT A DOLT!

HAD I POWERS LIKE HIS, I WOULD USE THEM TO ENSLAVE MY INFERIORS... NOT SERVE THEM.

STILL, WE ALL MAKE DO WITH WHAT MEAGER TALENTS WE HAVE, EH?

THESE OLD BUILDINGS ARE FIRETRAPS.

THE CITY SHOULD CONDEMN THEM ALL AND PUT THE POOR OUT ON THE STREET

SO WE'RE FORCED TO LIVE IN SUBSTANDARD...

HUNH?

I HEAR...

ARGHHHHH!

NOISE! AN ANGUISHED, MIND-SHATTERING SCREAM! MY EARS...

...MY HEAD!

THAT WALL IS RIPPING THROUGH MY HEAD!

SUPERMAN DROPPED THE BUILDING!

LOOK! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM!

C-CAN'T TAKE IT... DRIVING ME... CRAZY!

LIKE A THOUSAND SUNS EXPLODING!

CAN'T THINK... CAN'T EVEN FLY STRAIGHT!

NO!

G GET OUT OF THE WAY-- CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF!

...NEAR ME! GET OUT OF HERE!

-AGHHH!- CAN'T CONTROL MY BALANCE... CAN'T STOP FROM THRASHING LIKE SOME WILD ANIMAL!

...THE TEARS BUILDING! GROWING WORSE!

IF IT KEEPS INTENSIFYING, I'LL GO MAD!

SONICS HAVE PENETRATED SUPERMAN'S NERVOUS

BUT THE POWER NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN HIS DISORIENTATION IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE.

ACTIVATE PART TWO!

AHH, SUPERMAN... I WILL SEE YOU HUMILIATED AND REJECTED! I'LL SEE YOU SCORNED AND SOON, SO *VERY* SOON, IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS --

-I'LL SEE YOU *TURNED AGAINST* BY YOUR VERY BEST FRIENDS!

ONLY THEN, SUPERMAN-- SHALL YOU UNDERSTAND THE *TRUE POWER OF IMMORTALITY!*

SPACE... IF I CAN WALK IN SPACE -- IN ITS SILENCE

BUT I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT ... I CAN'T ...

WE NEED HELP SUPERMAN...

HE LOVES!

HUNH? THE NOISE STOPPED

OFFICER, WE WILL HELP HIM. THAT IS WHY VANDAL SAVAGE RECONSTRUCTED US.

SUPERMAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED?

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I JUST COULDN'T *CONTROL* MYSELF. I'LL *REPAIR* ALL THE DAMAGE, OF COURSE.

THEN I'LL *CONFRONT* SAVAGE. THIS

YOU CAN'T LET HIM ANYONE ELSE WHO *DESTROYED* SO MUCH PROPERTY.

SUPERMAN'S A *MENACE* TO US ALL!

ARREST HIM!

I UNDERSTAND.

YOU'VE GOT YOUR JOB TO DO.

I NEVER THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD EVER HAPPEN. GILROY, READ SUPERMAN HIS RIGHTS

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. YOU

I THOUGHT THIS OVER YOURSELF, SUPERMAN. I NEED HELPING YOU IN THE PAST...

BUT YOU NOT ONLY REJECTED MY HELP... YOU ATTACKED ME

SAVAGE?

I AM HAPPY TO REPORT WE WERE ABLE TO PREVENT YOU FROM DESTROYING THIS GREAT CITY.

STAY WHERE YOU ARE SUPERMAN

YOU HAVE TURNED AGAINST THESE PEOPLE, SUPERMAN. BUT I WILL BE THERE TO HELP THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED!

COME ON SUPERMAN -- WE'RE GOING DOWNTOWN.

YOU HEAR THAT? SUPERMAN TURNED BAD!

HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING IN HIS DEFENSE!

NO.. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SUPERMAN'S OUR HERO. HE CAN'T BE BAD!

CAN I TRUST ANYONE WITH POWERS LIKE HIS?

...

YOU WILL BE BOUND OVER FOR *TRIAL*, SUPERMAN... BUT CONSIDERING YOUR *FAST RECORD*, I WAIVE BAIL.

THANK YOU, YOUR [illegible]

.. SUPERMAN HAS JUST *LEFT* THE COURTHOUSE AFTER HE [illegible] GUM

WHY DID YOU GO ON A SEEMING [illegible]

MISS LANG, I CAN'T MAKE ANY *COMMENT* UNTIL I CONSULT MY *LAWYER*.

[illegible] THIS MORNING INDICATE WHILE THE *MAJORITY* OF METROPOLIS STILL *BACKS* YOU...

...SOME STILL *QUESTION* YOUR ACTION OF LATE.

I'M A *CITIZEN* LIKE ANYONE ELSE... I'M NOT ABOVE BEING QUESTIONED AND I'M NOT ABOVE THE LAW.

SUPERMAN, WHAT ABOUT YOUR ASSERTION THAT VANDAL SAVAGE IS A CRIMINAL *DESPITE* A LACK OF ANY CRIMINAL [illegible]

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[illegible] AS I SAID BEFORE.. NO COMMENT

[illegible]

I *EARNED* [illegible]

ALONE, AWAY FROM ALL OTHERS, WITH ONLY THE ROLLING ROAD AS COMPANION.

OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, IN AN ALL TOO FAMILIAR CAVE...

I CERTAINLY SEE YOUR PROBLEM.

SAVAGE IS BEHIND ALL MY TROUBLES, BUT CAN I PROVE IT?

YOUR IDEA COULD WORK. I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH DOING IT..

BUT WE'RE TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE.

I JUST NEEDED SOMEONE WHO COULD UNDERSTAND TO SPEAK WITH

SOMETIMES I FEEL SO VERY ALONE IN THE WORLD. IT'S SO IMPOSSIBLE TO RELEASE MY FEELINGS.

BUT I'VE NEVER HAD THAT PROBLEM WITH YOU. WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS AT OUR BEST AND AT OUR WORST. THANKS FOR HELPING ME OUT.

ANYTIME

AND THEN YOU SAVED... CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING THAT COSTUME. I HEAR YOU'RE WEARING WELL.

IF THE WORLD EVER HAD A TRUE HERO -- THAT'S HIM. HE SHOULD BE SPARED SUCH TORMENT.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THAT WAS SUPERMAN.

SUPERMAN FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET. WOW! THAT WAS THE BIG ENCHILADA HIMSELF.

AND HE TALKED TO ME! DOUBLE WOW!

THE DAILY PLANET

A QUIET FIGURE [illegible] THE DARKNESS.

HE SLIPS INTO THE CONTROL BOOTH, HESITATES, THEN FITS A SMALL DEVICE INTO [illegible]..

I THOUGHT I HEARD... CLARK?

[illegible]

[illegible] YOU DOING HERE, CLARK?

[illegible] SUPERMAN!

LANA... IT'S SUPERMAN.. HE NEEDED SOME HELP.

[illegible] REALLY IS IN TROUBLE [illegible]?

SOME TROUBLE... WORSE THAN ANY CRIMINAL CAREER WOMAN EVER FACED! YOU WON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MY BEING HERE, WILL YOU?

WHENEVER THE WORLD LOOKED SO BLEAK IT COULD JUST CRUMBLE APART, HE WAS THERE TO HELP

WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE CRIME HAD EVERY ANGLE SEWN [illegible] TO THE [illegible] OF WASHINGTON D.C., HE WAS THERE TO *LIGHT* THE WAY

WHEN THERE SEEMED TO BE NO MORE HEROES TO *BELIEVE* IN, THERE WAS SUPERMAN.

SUPERMAN REPRESENTS EVERYTHING THAT IS GOOD THAT IS TRUTH... THAT IS *JUSTICE*.

AND IF HE NEEDS MY HELP, NO MATTER WHAT IT IS -- I'D GIVE IT TO HIM -- *WITHOUT QUESTION!*

HE'S SUPERMAN WHAT *ELSE* COULD WE BUT DO?

ABRAXAS INCORPORATED...

IT'S WORKING SO BEAUTIFULLY, EVEN *BETTER* THAN I HAD IMAGINED.

IT WON'T BE TOO LONG BEFORE--

VREEEEEPPP

THE *INTRUDER ALARM?* SOMEONE'S IN THE *CONTROL ROOM?*

BUT WHERE? MY MONITORS REVEAL *NOTHING.*

OH...

SUPERMAN!

WHAT DO YOU *WANT* HERE?

BE *WARNED!* I'M VIDEOTAPING EVERYTHING. IF YOU HARM ME, *EVERYONE* WILL KNOW ABOUT IT.

I DON'T HURT PEOPLE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT *I'VE* BEEN READING, OLD FRIEND.

CAN THE GARBAGE, SAVAGE.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

DOING WHAT? I'M AS INNOCENT AS A NEWBORN BABE.

BUT THE PEOPLE ON THE STREET CAN'T SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU, EH?

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, SAVAGE?

BETWEEN US AND THE WALLS, SUPES? BECAUSE YOU ARE IN MY WAY! BECAUSE YOU COULD SPOIL MY PLANS!

OH, YES -- I REALIZED ONLY YOU KNEW OF MY PAST CRIMINAL RECORD ON EARTH-TWO. IN FACT, YOU ARE AMONG THE FEW WHO EVEN KNOW AN EARTH-TWO EXISTS.

SO I PLAYED ON THAT. I CREATED THE ROBOTS WHICH I KNEW YOU'D DESTROY.

I PAID NEUTRON TO DEMOLISH THAT BUILDING, KNOWING YOU'D ATTACK HIM!

AND I CREATED THOSE SPORES, MADE IT LOOK LIKE YOU UNLEASHED THEM, AND FURTHER TURNED PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST YOU!

OH, YES... I ALSO CREATED THE LASER ERASERS TO LINK YOUR NAME WITH DISASTER!

AND DO YOU KNOW WHY I DID IT? FOR THE SAME REASON I CAN TELL YOU MY PLANS AND NOT FEAR YOU:

YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE AS PREDICTABLE AS AN OLD, COMFORTABLE PAIR OF SHOES.

WHILE I AM A SCAVENGER WHO PREYS UPON PREDICTABILITY.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND *WHY*.

abraxas

THE *WHY* IS SIMPLE. I AM AN *IMMORTAL*. THAT IMMEDIATELY MAKES ME *BETTER* THAN ANYONE ELSE.

I WAS *BORN* TO RULE. AND THOUGH I HAD FAILED TO *ACHIEVE* MY DESTINY ON EARTH-TWO, I KNEW I WOULD NOT FAIL HERE ON *EARTH-ONE*.

YOU SEE, YOUR PEOPLE ARE *SHEEP*. THEY WILL FOLLOW ANYONE WHO SEEMS EQUIPPED TO LEAD.

THE *FIRST* TIME I APPEARED, I EVEN SAID I WAS FROM ANOTHER EARTH, BUT I DOUBT IF ONE IN A MILLION *HEARD* OR UNDERSTOOD ME.

BUT THEY SAW I WAS A *HERO*. THEY SAW YOU WERE CREATING DISASTER... WITH *MY* HELP, OF COURSE.

YOUR PEOPLE ARE FOOLS AND IT WAS SIMPLICITY ITSELF TO USE THE MEDIA TO MAKE *YOU* LOOK LIKE A FOOL, TOO.

THEY ARE *TURNING* ON YOU. AND SOON, BECAUSE OF YOUR FOOLISH PRIDE, YOU WILL DECIDE TO *ABANDON* AN EARTH THAT NO LONGER WELCOMES YOU.

YOU'RE *WRONG*, SAVAGE! AND YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN WRONG! ABOUT ME, AND ABOUT THE PEOPLE!

THE PEOPLE AREN'T FOOLS, SAVAGE. LINCOLN SAID IT BEST--YOU CAN FOOL THEM ONLY *SOME* OF THE TIME. THEY'LL SEE THROUGH YOU.

AND LINCOLN WAS A FOOL, TOO, IF HE TRULY *BELIEVED* THAT.

AH, YOUR *FISTS*. IT ALWAYS COMES DOWN TO THAT, EH?

AS I ONCE TOLD YOU, YOU *THINK* WITH YOUR FISTS... WHICH IS WHY I AM DESTINED FOR VICTORY.

NO, SAVAGE... THAT WASN'T A *THREAT.*

YOU SEE, DESPITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE, I *DON'T* THINK FIRST WITH MY FISTS.

MY MOVES ARE *PLANNED*, YES. IF FORCED TO, I FIGHT. BUT I PREFER *PEACEFUL* SOLUTIONS TO VIOLENCE.

YOU'VE SYSTEMATICALLY ALTERED *FACTS* TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD IN PUBLIC.

I THINK, HOWEVER, IT'S TIME YOU HAD A TASTE OF YOUR *OWN* MEDICINE.

YOU'VE *TAPED* ALL OUR ENCOUNTERS IN THE PAST. I KNEW YOU WOULD VIDEOTAPE THIS ONE.

AND WHEN YOU DID, YOU *ACTIVATED* A TRANSMITTER I PLACED IN YOUR CONTROL ROOM...

...WHICH *LINKS* IN WITH ONE AT STATION *WGBS-TV.*

YOU TRIED TO MAKE *MY DEEDS* BETRAY ME, BUT NOW YOUR OWN WORDS HAVE *BETRAYED* YOU.

THE PEOPLE YOU DESPISE *KNOW* THE TRUTH NOW. GOOD LUCK TRYING TO *CONVINCE* THEM AGAIN.

NO! NO! NO!!!

SUPERMAN LEAVES. OUTSIDE, CHEERING CROWDS GREET HIM WITH WELL-DESERVED PRAISE.

WHILE POLICE RUSH INSIDE...

VANDAL SAVAGE IS GONE? BUT WE SEARCHED *EVERYWHERE.* WHERE IS HE?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT AFTER THIS, I *DON'T* THINK HE'LL SHOW HIS FACE IN METROPOLIS AGAIN!

TRUE IMMORTALITY ISN'T MEASURED BY HOW LONG YOU LIVE, BUT BY WHAT YOU DO IN THE TIME YOU HAVE.

THE END